

# ALASKA

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Alaska received \$5.4 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alaska Humanities Forum for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage.*

*Below are some examples.*

- A \$300,000 challenge grant helped the **Anchorage Museum** leverage \$900,000 in private donations to build an endowment to support a full-time conservator. The expanding museum holds a vast collection of ethnographic objects, art, and historical photographs.
- To commemorate the **50th anniversary of Alaskan statehood** in 2009, the Alaska Humanities Forum received three separate grants totaling \$210,000 to support research, oral histories, radio and television broadcasts, and several performances exploring what it means to be Alaskan and American.
- The **Minto Songs** project collected and digitized old recordings of song performances for distribution and archiving. The Minto community in Alaska is the last village of speakers of Lower Tanana Athabaskan, an indigenous language rich in song tradition.
- To support institutional development, the **Alutiiq Heritage Foundation** in Kodiak and the **Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center** in Haines both received two grants of around \$6,000 each to support preservation assessments for their collections of historical artifacts and other holdings.
- One hundred and fifty reels of 16mm film, documenting the **history and culture of native Alaskan communities** from the 1940s to 1975, benefited from preservation efforts with the assistance of a \$164,000 grant to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.
- The **Juneau-Douglas City Museum** is housed in the first library built with public funds in the Alaskan territory. In 2011, the museum received a \$275,000 grant to update its sixty-year-old heating and ventilation system.
- The endangered language of Lachixio was the subject of a \$50,400 fellowship awarded to Mark Sicoli, an assistant professor at the **University of Alaska, Fairbanks**, who used the funding to support phonetic transcription and interpretation of video footage that had been collected during his field work in Mexico.
- *For the Rights of All*, an hour-long documentary recounting the indigenous civil rights movement that culminated in the **Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945**, was supported by a \$22,000 grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum.
- A grant of \$30,000 to the Alaska Humanities Forum supported efforts to integrate Alaskan art and history into **Picturing America**, the NEH program that brought reproductions of classic American art and teachers' guides to 70,000 schools and libraries nationwide.
- **The Rose Urban Rural Exchange** is a major program of the Alaska Humanities Forum. It connects town and country by sending teachers and students to live and study in unfamiliar environments, bridging the geographic and cultural divides that separate Alaskans.

## Talking POINTS.

# NATIONWIDE

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans.*

*Here are some examples.*

### **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

### **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

### **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

### **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

### **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

### **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films bring history alive. Twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

### **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

### **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.